

# Presa Canario on the Web



This domain  
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canario.com**  
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The first website dedicated to the Dogo Canario -  
Presa Canario  
run and maintained from the Canary Islands, Spain.

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**Presa Canario - a noble and tame dog with the family,  
but distrustful of strangers.**



Photos taken from TopDog magazine.

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ATTACHMENT IX

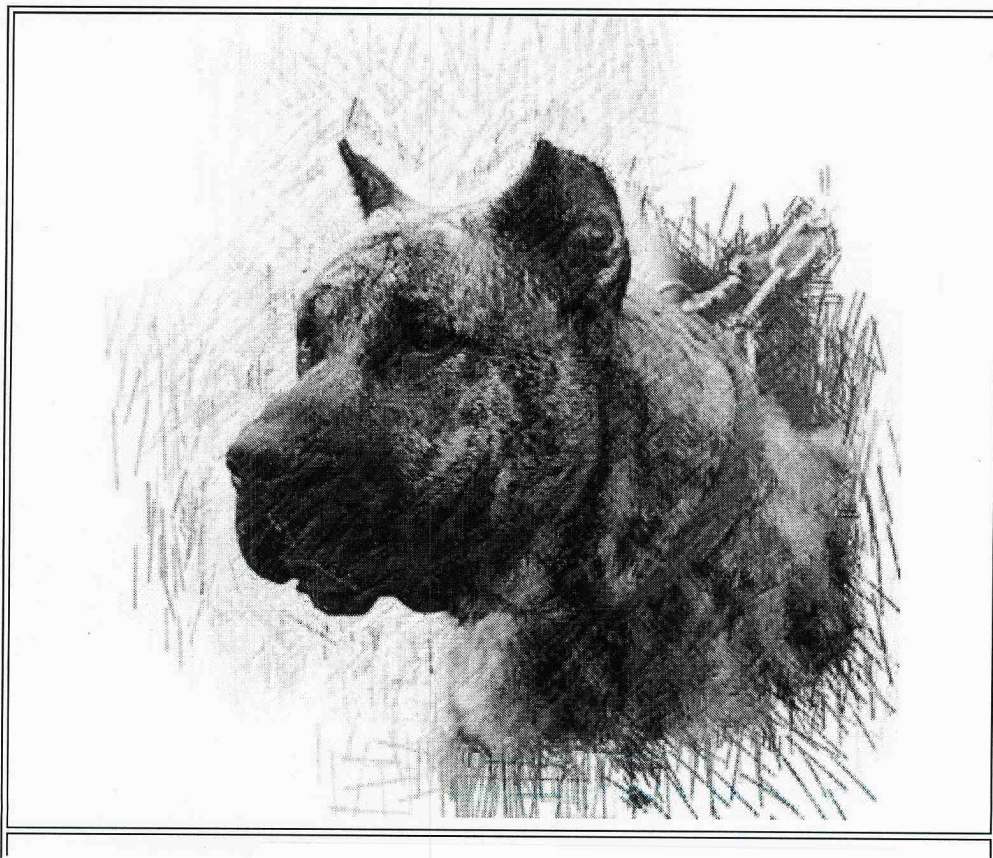
A-27

## Origins of the Breed

Since the 16th century, the Presa Canario has been mentioned in documents of the Canary Islands. It is assumed that it was introduced into the Islands by the Conquistadors and Spanish Colonialists. With time and in the isolation it has become a breed in its own right. It is also believed that it has been influenced by other breeds from Great Britain, Cuba, etc. What is certain is that this dog, of sizeable body and head and extraordinary temperament, has always been used in the Canary Islands to guard farms and cattle. When the breed is finally recognised by the Federation Cynologique Internationale (FCI), the Presa Canario will also be known as Dogo Canario.

## General Form and Character

It is an extraordinarily powerful looking dog with a severe gaze. Especially suited to guarding and defence. It is of firm temperament with a grave and deep bark. The Presa Canario (Dogo Canario) is affectionate, docile and well-behaved with his owner and family, but fierce with strangers. Independent and aggressive with other dogs, both of his own breed and other breeds. It has been used in the past as an excellent fighting dog.



ATTACHMENT IX

A-28



Gao (Kyma X Dique).

Photography and Artistic rendering by Jason - Singapore.

"As a guardian breed with man-stopping ability there is no dog that is more effective than the Canary Dog. It remains and incredibly powerful and fearless animal, it is known for its great devotion to its human family, and it is known to accept children in the home. This is a dog that will stay by its master's side at all times and is never known to stray. This dog is protective by nature and will not hesitate to attack anyone whom it perceives as a threat to its family or home. Such an attack could only be a hopeless situation for any man involved."


Dr. Carl Semencic

Pit Bulls and Tenacious Guard Dogs.

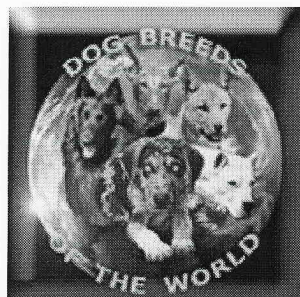
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## FILA BRASILEIRO (BRAZILIAN FILA, BRAZILIAN MASTIFF)

### In Brief

This very loyal and fearless guard dog looks like a cross between a Mastiff and a Bloodhound, and was originally bred to protect the Brazilian plantations of the 19th century.



Jagunço  
Serra de Itanhandu kennel

Country	Brazil
Size	Tall
Coat	Short, smooth
Colors	yellow/grey/brindle
Temperament	Fearlessness
Exercise	High
Registry	FCI
Group	Mastiff

### Origin

Centuries ago the ancestors of the Fila Brasileiro were crossed with Bloodhounds, Mastiffs and bulldogs brought to the new world by the Conquistadors. The resulting breed combined the great scenting ability of the Bloodhound, with power and fearless tenacity.

This made the Fila particularly suited to defend the ranches and cattle of the Minas Gerais region against thieves and jaguars.

Filas were also useful on hunting journeys to track, attack and then hold the prey until the hunter arrived to take over. The word 'Fila' is, in fact, derived from a Portuguese word meaning 'to hold' or 'to secure'. At one time this dog was also employed to track down and capture runaway slaves. It is probably the only breed that was selected for centuries to deeply dislike the humans they were not raised with, and, to this day, temperament tests run during championships require the dogs to attack without being coached, to remain self-confident during a shooting test, and to openly show their suspicion of strangers. The standard prescribes that, even at dog shows, Filas should not *"allow the judge (a stranger) to touch it. And if it attacks the judge, such a reaction must not be considered a fault, but only a confirmation of its temperament."*

### Appearance

ATTACHMENT IX  
A-30



**Fila Brasileiro****Puppies**

Fila Brasileiro Pups

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A typical molosser breed, squarely built, well boned and with a massive head. A unique physical feature of this breed is his gait. The Fila has an ambling gait, created by moving both legs on the same side of the body at the same time, instead of diagonally like other dog breeds. Another characteristic of the breed are its loose joints in the legs and spine. As a result, the Fila is able to change route suddenly and quickly, even at a gallop.

Filas typically have a sad look when at rest, which becomes energetic and determined when on the alert.

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Accepted coat colors are: any color between yellow, reddish brown or red (or a greyish version of these colors), silver, brindle (yellow and black), or "araca" (yellow hair with splitted black stripes). Yellow and brindle may have a black mask and/or black ears. White spots on the legs, chest and tail are tolerated. White with brindled spots is accepted, provided the white parts are pure. Solid white or black are not accepted by the original standard. Although controversy exists among breeders about the latter one, it is a fact that lighter-colored dogs are better able to regulate body temperature when working outside in intense sun.

**Roman Cane****Corso's Inc.**

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[www.RomanCaneCorso.com](http://www.RomanCaneCorso.com)**Character and Temperament**

The Fila is a courageous, determined and serene dog who shows self-confidence and fearlessness, even in unknown situations. Filas do not hide their aversion to strangers, however, with their human family, they can be very tender and affectionate and are extremely loyal.

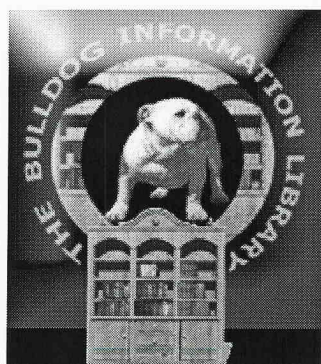
Clearly this is not a dog for everyone or every setting. Once you have a Fila at home, allowing occasional visitors or a weekly cleaning help into your home may become a problem. Therefore, Filas need responsible, cautious owners who understand the need of early socialization of their Fila puppy.

**See also:**[Molosser dogs](#)[Bulldog Campeiro](#) or [Brazilian bulldog](#)**External Links:**[Old Farm Fila Brasileiro](#)[Ads by Google](#)[Mastiff Puzzle](#)[Fila Brasileiro Puppy](#)[English Bulldog](#)[Fila](#)

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## DOGO ARGENTINO

(ARGENTINE DOGO, ARGENTIN DOGO, ARGENTINA DOG, ARGENTINIAN MASTIFF)

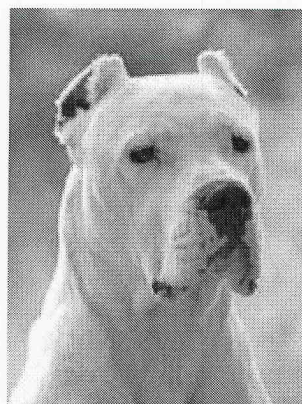
### Origins and history of the Dogo Argentino

For the dogo breed description and temperament, see: [dogo argentino](#).

by C. Marien - de Luca

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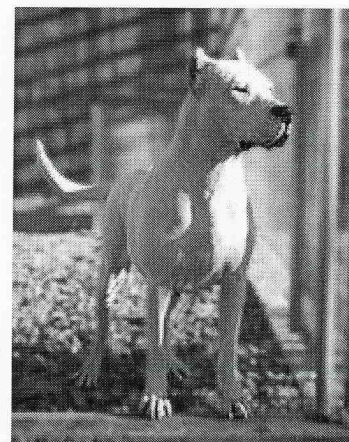


Ipajeva del Picadero  
Le Lagon des Grands Blancs

The Dogo argentino or argentinian mastiff is a large, muscular and athletic, white-coated dog with an unusual history. Its origin was planned by Antonio Nores Martinez, an argentinian surgeon, who decided as a teenager to create the ideal hunting and fighting dog, i.e. a dog breed that would concentrate the qualities of the "Viejo perro de pelea cordobés" (Old fighting dog of Cordoba), a dog said to stem from Spanish Mastiff, Bull Terrier, old Bulldog of england and early Boxer.

The fighting dog of Cordoba was described as 'white, large and ferocious', so ferocious that they were said to attack their bitches while mating with them. This dog, but with more bulk and superior physical strength, and capable of hunting big game (pumas, peccaries, cougars,

wild boars, etc.) was set as the target of the breeding program started by Antonio Nores Martinez and which, by the dedication of its creator and its duration, remains unequalled in canine historv.



Makychi de Vianini  
Le Lagon des Grands Blancs

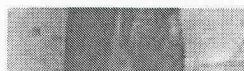
**Dongo Argentino Warning**  
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[EasyDogSystem.com/Arg](http://EasyDogSystem.com/Arg)

Las Pampas

ATTACHMENT IX  
A-32

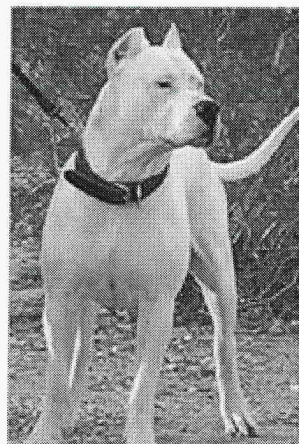




Antoño Nores Martinez

Antonio's fascination for fighting dogs it is important to know the context in

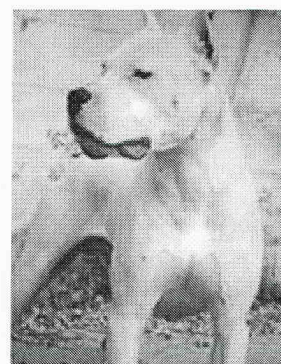
which both brothers grew up: they were born in 1907 and 1908, respectively, in the Argentinian province of Córdoba, in a family of Spanish descent, their father and uncles



Multi Int Champion Iago de las Aguas Mansas, "Diego"  
owner: Debonair Dogos, San Diego, Ca (US).

devoted to blood sports, like cockfighting, dogfighting, bullbaiting, and tauromachy, as well as hunting.

Given their background, it is not surprising that both brothers were fascinated by fighting dogs and decided to create a "Superdog" that would combine the extraordinary courage and fighting spirit of the Old Fighting Dog of Cordoba with qualities like height, hardiness, hunting instinct, air-scenting ability and speed of other dog breeds.



Gunfire Fiero ella Val Curone  
Superb dogo

As we already pointed out, it became the work of a lifetime, and of a family, as the dogo argentino would not have become what it is today without the help, in the first place, of Antonio's brother Augustin, but also of his father and uncles, and his brother Francesco. The fact that his father was a renowned surgeon with good knowledge of genetics probably contributed to the success of the enterprise as well.



Casper. Owner: Diane Stratton



One of the foundation dogs used by Antoño

In Antonio's mind 'his' dog breed would have to be so tenacious, courageous and tireless, that a single dog, even hurt, would be able to catch a puma or peccary and hold it until his master arrives on the scene. (hence the need for excellent fighting qualities).

At the same time the fighting instinct oriented towards other dogs had to be eliminated, if not this instinct would have made them useless for pack hunting.

Argentinian hunts are held in strict silence by both dogs and hunters. The specific hunting conditions in Argentina make hunting dogs that signal the presence of game useless. Due to the wide spaces lacking natural



## ATTACHMENT IX

A-33

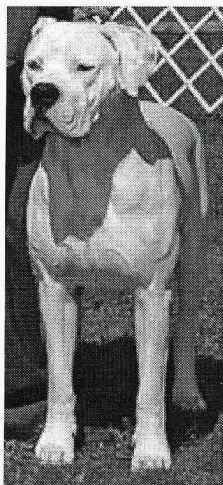


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approach and immobilize an animal in silence would never be able to catch its prey.

Finally, the ideal dog would have to possess a remarkable endurance and be agile, rather than merely fast, due to the particularly dense vegetation of the argentinian forests.



Multi CH Paulo de  
Manhattan  
Wabun kennels

It had to possess the necessary force to fight a puma or wild board after having chased it for hours. This implies the necessity of a large pulmonary capacity.

In this the dogo argentino differs from the traditional fighting dogs which show a tremendous power at the start of the fight, searching to dominate their adversary as soon as possible by driving their weight forward using their strength drive of the hind legs. Hindquarters with well bent stifles are necessary for proper thrust and balance in a pit fighting dog. The angulation of the joints does not allow them to run for extended periods of time. If they had to chase big game in the same Argentinean conditions they would arrive exhausted and with little energy left to spend fighting them. See also: [dogo breed description](#) and [dogo temperament](#)

Antonio also wanted 'his' dog to be an ideal [guard dog](#). According to Antonio, a guard dog that would give up the fight as soon as it got hurt would be useless. When used as a guardian, the dogo should be prepared to fight to the death to defend its human family and home. Read more about the [Dogo Argentino bloodlines](#) and the [foundation stock of the Dogo](#)

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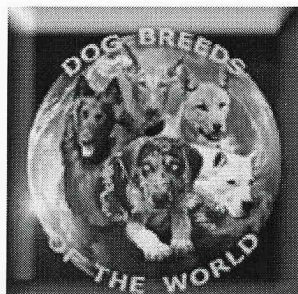
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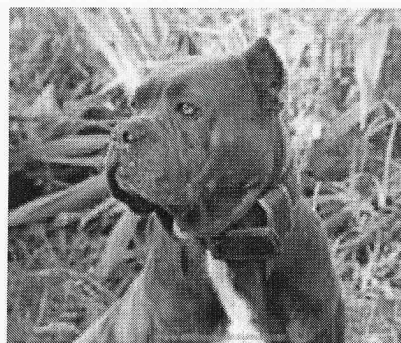
## CANE CORSO

### (ITALIAN CORSO DOG, CHIEN DE COUR ITALIEN)

#### In Brief

The Cane Corso is a medium-large guard dog native to Southern Italy. His stable temperament and powerful body make him particularly appreciated as guard dog and protection dog.

Country	Italy
Size	Tall
Coat	short
Colors	black, grey
Temperament	courageous
Exercise	High
Registry	FCI
Group	Mastiff



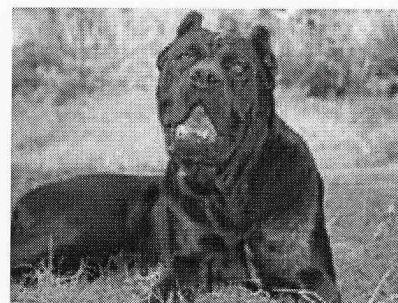
"Themis"  
Les Veilleurs de Sirius, France

They were found Puglia, Sannio, Lucania and Calabria, the ancient region of *Capitanata* and the generic name for this breed was Cane Corso.

Although the adjective 'corso' means 'corsican' in Italian, the breed's name is unrelated to Corsica. However, its true etymology is still uncertain. Plausible explanations say that it derives from an ancient celtic or provenzal word, related to the english word "coarse" or from the latin cohorts (a military unit of the Roman army) suggesting its ancient function as a bodyguard or protection dog. A third theory states that it shares the same root as the italian noun *corso* (from the Greek *kórtos*, meaning "enclosure"), again referring to the dog's function of guard dog that was kept chained up or within an

#### Origin

Traditionally, rural Southern Italy has always known a rustic type of dog used for the hunting of big game and for guard and protection work. These dogs were known under various regional names: Vucchiuriscu (or Buccuriscu) in Sicily, Cane della masseria in Puglia, Cane da Macellaio, etc.



"Zora"  
Les Veilleurs de Sirius, France

**Alcor Cane Corso**  
Champion lines,  
protective and  
loyal. Pups ready to  
go home now!  
[www.alcorcanecorso.com](http://www.alcorcanecorso.com)

Southern Cane



enclosure.

### Appearance



brindle cane corso  
Les Veilleurs de Sirius, France

The Corso is a medium to large sized molosser breed, strongly built, but elegant and distinguished in appearance. His muscles are long and powerfull, expressing agility and endurance.

Accepted colors include: black, various shades of grey (lead-grey, slate-grey and light grey), light fawn and gray brindle. A small white patch on the chest, feet tips, and nose bridge is tolerated.

### Character and Temperament

Like all molosser breeds, the Cane Corso is generally a quiet dog, barking only to alert to an out-of-the-ordinary situation. With their owners and their human family corsos are docile and affectionate. However, prospective owners should know that these dogs require a great deal of attention and training. Some previous experience with dominant dogs can prove useful, as corsos can be very dominant, especially males.

#### **See also:**

[Italian dog breeds](#)

[Neapolitan Mastiff](#)

[Molosser breeds](#)

#### **External Links:**

[International Corso Federation](#)

[Il Contado del Molise](#)

[Your Guide to Italy](#): an informative website about everything related to Italy and the Italian culture.

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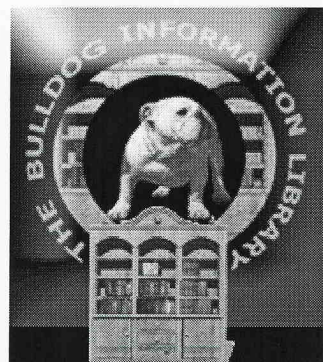
[Dogs of War Cane Corso](#)

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## JAPANESE DOG BREEDS Tosa Inu

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- Molossers Breeds
- Dogo Argentino ▶
- Cane Corso
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- Ca de Bou
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- Rottweiler ▶
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- Boerboel
- Bulldog
- Great Dane
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### TOSA-INU, TOSA-KEN ☐☐☐ TOSA TOUKEN, TOSA TÔKEN ☐☐☐☐ JAPANESE MASTIFF

Photo courtesy of Anita Sluyp, [Octopus Tosa Inu's](http://www.octopus-tosa-inu.com)  
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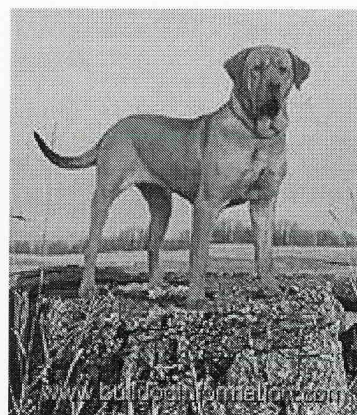


Without doubt, the Tosa Inu is one of the most fascinating but at the same time least well understood dog breeds, much like the culture they originate from. The native country of the Tosa Inu breed is Shikoku, the smallest of the four Japanese islands. Their character reflects many attributes of the Japanese culture and mentality.

The dogs were named after the area where they were bred, the old Tosa province, now known as the Kochi prefecture.

At that time, the Tosa province was one of the two most popular dog fighting areas, the other one being the prefecture of Akita, the northernmost area on the island of Honshu. At first, the Akita breed was stronger than the Tosa, but gradually, the situation reversed because of cross-breeding of the Tosa breed with European breeds. The Akitas and Tosas were also cross bred, with the resulting off-spring labeled as "Shin Akita".

Octopus-Bacchiri-Yûshû-na  
owner: Octopus Tosa Inu's



Tosa Inu ☐☐☐ literally means "Tosa dog", the two first ideograms (*Kanji*) representing the word 'Tosa' and the last one that one of 'dog'. In English the suffix 'Inu' is sometimes left out. A variant of this name is Tosa Ken. Both 'Inu' and 'Ken' mean dog in Japanese. It is not another word but basically the Sino-Japanese

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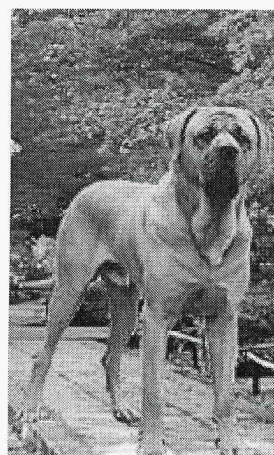
**Tosa Inu Training**  
How To Train Your



instead of INU (*kun-reading*, indigenous Japanese reading). Both are correct, but the expression Tosa-Ken is more generally used in the spoken language.

Tosa's are also known as *Japanese Mastiffs* or *Japanese fighting dogs*, after the Japanese 闘犬, *Tosa Touken* or *Tosa Tôken*, which literally means 'Tosa Fighting dog'. 'Tôken' takes a long -o in Japanese and the correct transcription in English therefore is either 'Tôken' or 'Touken'.

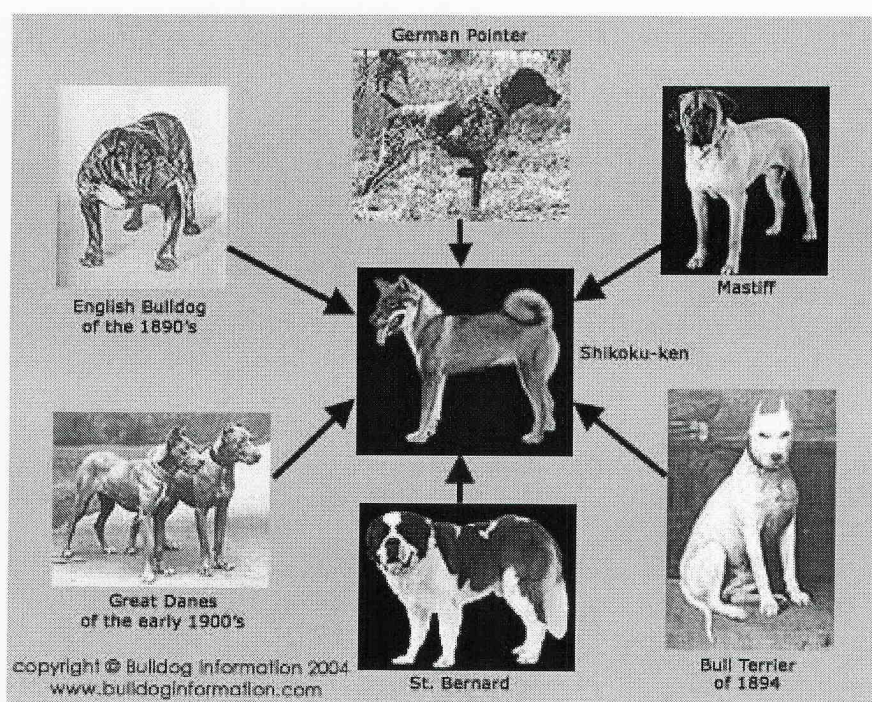
When the Japanese politics of isolation ended with the **Meiji Restoration** from 1866 to 1869, more and more foreigners with big-sized dogs entered the country. The Japanese were impressed by the size, strength and endurance of these Western dogs. As a result, they started to crossbreed some of their native breeds with these dogs. To create the Tosa they crossbred the Shikoku ken with Bulldogs (1872), Mastiffs (1874), German Pointers (1876) and Great Danes (1924), Bull Terrier and St. Bernards all of which were used to improve the breed by sequential mating.



Octopus Aka Hebiky shenshu  
breeder: Octopus Tosa Inu's  
owner: fam. Poel



Octopus Tosa pup  
Breeder: Octopus Tosa Inu's  
Robert & Anita Sluyp



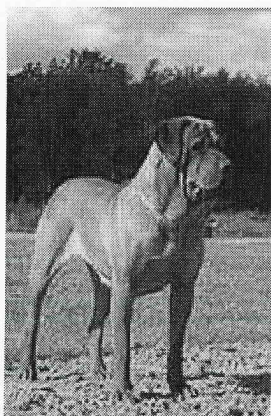
Note that the Great Dane were not as giant as today's Danes and that the English Bulldog and Bull Terrier looked substantially different from today's exemplars. Within a short period of time they succeeded in fixing a type that concentrated the characteristics of the Japanese 'Sumo'. In 1925 the breed was already well defined and in 1930 an official association was founded for the preservation and diffusion of the breed.

The original Japanese Tosa Inu is courageous, prudent, well-tempered and docile. It displays an enormous strength and high pain threshold.

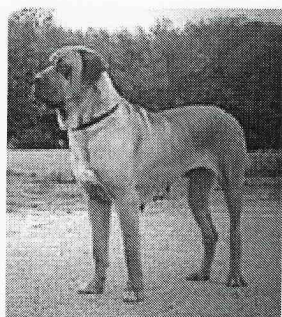
They are probably the only dogs in the world which are still used quite legally to this day for dog fights. However, the Japanese developed a type of fight according to their mentality that bears no comparison with the notorious pit dog fights held illegally in other parts of the world.

In Japan dogs are carefully bred and trained and the game is conducted under strict rules and accompanied by holy rituals and





Octopus Tosa-Inu  
breeder: Octopus Tosa Inu's  
Robert & Anita Sluyp



Octopus-Ai-Suru-Matsu  
owner: Octopus Tosa Inu's,  
R&A. Sluyp

processions. The dog fights among Tosa's should never be cruel or bloody and they never end with the death of one of the participants. On the contrary, the fights are designed to last long and, contrary to pit dog fights, a dog that goes for a fast and easy victory, is not considered a good specimen. Similar to Sumo wrestling, the dogs try to bring and hold each other down on the floor. If he dominates for more than 3 min. (or 5 min. if the fight lasted for more than 15 min.) he is declared the winner. A whining or growling dog is declared the loser. The same goes for a dog that turns its hind to the opponent or moves back three steps when attacked. The fight ends in any case after 30 min. in a nil draw if neither of the dogs has proved superior to the other. Unlike most other fighting dog breeds, the original Tosa is conscious of the symbolic value of the fight and it respects the rules of the game and its opponents.

Like sumo wrestlers, the dogs are graded into a hierarchy according to the points they have recently earned. The greatest Tosa "wrestlers" receive the title of Yokozuna, like the famous sumo's.

Two times in the twentieth century all the Japanese breeds, including the Tosa, were in imminent danger of extinction. First the food crisis during World War II and the invasion by the allied forces, then a distemper epidemic brought the Tosa to the verge of extinction. The Association for the preservation of the Tosa decided to save 12 Tosa's which by their character and type were the most authentic representatives of the breed and took them to the Aomori prefecture at the north of Japan, an area little involved in the war. From those 12 exemplars descend the majority of the genuine Tosa's today.

The overall appearance should be that of a massive but dynamic and flexible athlete, with a large, broad head, a boxy muzzle and clearly observable dewlap. Contrary to the Japan Kennel Club (JKC) and the Federation Cynologique Internationale (FCI) which require red as the preferred color, the traditional Tosa breeding in Kochi City accepts a variety of colors, solid or brindle, black with markings, or pied. [read more](#)

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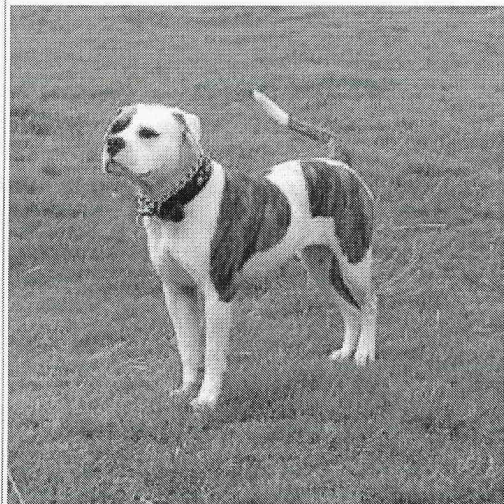


# American Bulldog

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## American Bulldog



A brindle and white American Bulldog

### **Alternative names**

Old Country Bulldog

### **Country of origin**

United States

### **Classification and breed standards**

**UKC:** Guardian Stds

Dogs (<http://www.ukcdogs.com/breeds/guardiandogs/americanbu>)

The **American Bulldog** is a breed of working dog developed for catching livestock and for protecting property. Though larger in size, they are the closest surviving relative of the Old English Bulldog because they were not altered to as great an extent while in Colonial America as their European cousins. There are generally considered to be two types of American Bulldog, the **Johnson** type and the **Scott** type, named after the breeders who were influential in developing them, John D. Johnson and Allen Scott. These are more commonly known as Classic or Bully type and Standard or Performance type.

ATTACHMENT IX

A-40



## Contents

- 1 Quick Facts
- 2 Appearance
  - 2.1 Confusion with other breeds
- 3 Temperament
- 4 History
  - 4.1 Today
- 5 References
- 6 Further reading
- 7 See also
- 8 External links

## Quick Facts

American Bulldog Quick Facts		
Weight:	27-45 kg	75-125 for males, 60-80 for females lb
Height:	50-71 cm	20-28 in
Coat:	Short, coarse	
Coat (cont):	stiff to touch	
Activity level:	Medium - high	
Learning rate:	Very high	
Temperament:	Gentle, loving, fearless, loyal, protective	
Guard dog ability:	very High	

ATTACHMENT IX  
A-41



Watch-dog ability:	High
Litter size:	6-16
Life span:	8-15 years

## Appearance

The American Bulldog is a stocky, strong-looking dog. Its coat is short and either white or white with patches. The Johnson type is a larger dog with a shorter muzzle than the Scott type. However, many modern American Bulldogs are a combination of the two types. In general, American Bulldogs weigh between 27 to 57 kg (60 to 125 lb) and are 52 to 70 cm (20 to 28 in) at the withers.

### Confusion with other breeds



There are two distinct strains of American Bulldogs, Classic

(Johnson, Bully) and Standard (Scott, Performance) which is often mistaken for its second cousin, the American Pit Bull Terrier because of its appearance, and for its much smaller European relatives because

of its name. The American Bulldog is different from any of these. The American Bulldog is massive in comparison to the French Bulldog or Bulldog as it still resembles the Old English Bulldog and was never down bred to be a lap dog.

The Standard American Bulldog does resemble the pit bull-type breeds on many points, such as being muscular dogs that can be all white or white with patches. However, the pit bull's head is in the shape of a wedge coming to a more rounded point at the muzzle, whereas an American Bulldog's is box-shaped. The American Bulldog's ears are also typically uncropped, and its

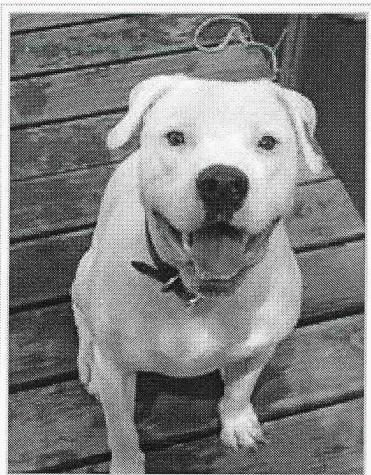


Nelson, American Bulldog,  
Johnson/Scott Hybrid



head is heavier and a little bulkier.

## Temperament



American bulldogs can make great family dogs despite their reputation.

An American Bulldog is typically a happy, friendly, and assertive dog that is at ease with its family and fine with strangers as they get to know the stranger in question. They are quite fond of children but sometimes do not know their own strength, thus, as with all dogs, they should be supervised with small children. They bond strongly with their master and family but, because of strong guarding instincts and a somewhat dominant attitude, they need a firm but fair hand; they should be socialized and obedience trained early to expose them to other dogs and people and to ensure that they can be controlled around company as they get older and larger.

They are working dogs with high energy drives. They need room to expend their energy, and so American Bulldogs do best in a home with a backyard and preferably a "job" to do. A tired well worked bulldog is a happy bulldog. They are not always well behaved towards cats and smaller pets, but correct socialization at an early age can greatly increase the chances of them accepting these animals. This behavior is a reflection of a breed trait called prey drive. High prey drive is a desirable trait in an American Bulldog. A well bred American Bulldog is a catch dog of large herbivores. They can be stubborn with training though once they are trained they tend to obey their masters faithfully. American bulldog puppies can be relatively difficult to housebreak, thus it is important to be persistent.

## History

The history of Mastiff-type dogs in the British Isles dates back beyond the arrival of Caesar, who reported of the ferocious dogs. With the arrival of the Normans in 1066 came Alaunts from the continent. The breeding of the



indigenous mastiffs to the newly arrived ones produced the Mastiff and Bulldog of England. An interesting aside, is that all descriptions of the Alaunts (there were three types) mention an all white, or almost entirely white coat - a feature the American Bulldog shares with several other Mastiff-type breeds, including the all-white Dogo Argentino.

In England during the 17th and 18th centuries, bulldogs were used on farms to catch bitches and hold livestock; as butchers' dogs; and as guardians, as well as for other tasks. This eventually led to bloodsports such as bull-baiting, popular for both entertainment and the potential for gambling. These practices extended not only from the British Isles but also to the colonies she acquired during this time, including what is now the United States and in particular the South; many settlers brought their dogs with them to help around the farm, hunt in the woods, and use in gambling.

In 1835, the sport of bull-baiting was outlawed in the United Kingdom and, over time, the Bulldog there became a common pet, being bred into today's more compact and complacent version. The product was as much the efforts of selectively bred bulldogs as it was the introduction of the Pug. Conversely, the American strain maintained its utilitarian purpose, and thus underwent less modifications; even as its popularity declined in favor of other breeds. Even the slight modifications the bulldog underwent in England from the late Renaissance into the Industrial Revolution (pre 1835), were absent in the American strain. (Most settlers of the American South came from the West Midlands and as a result of the Civil War between Royalists and Parliamentarians, well before the Industrial Revolution).

Perhaps the most important role of the bulldog and the reason for its survival and in fact why it thrived through out the North was because of the presence of feral pigs, introduced to the New World and without predators<sup>[1]</sup>. The bulldogs were the settlers' only means of sufficiently dealing with the vermin. By World War II, the breed was near extinction until John D. Johnson and his father scoured the backroads of the South looking for the best specimens to revive the breed. During this time a young Alan Scott grew an interest in Mr. Johnson's dogs and began to work with him on the revitalization process. At



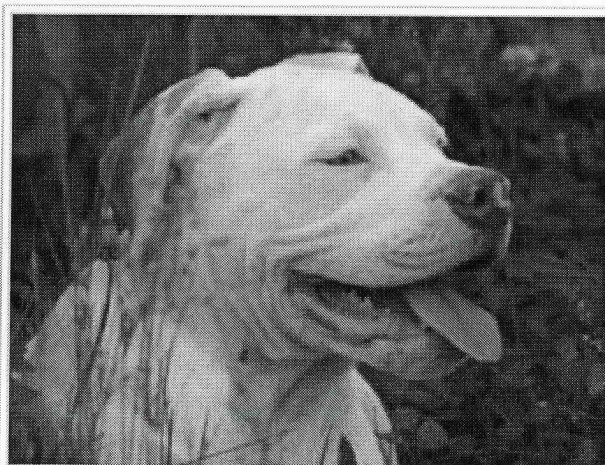
some point, Alan Scott began infusing non-Johnson catch bulldogs from working southern farms with John D. Johnson's line creating the now Standard American Bulldog. At another point, Mr. Johnson began crossing his line with an atavistic Bulldog from the North that had maintained its genetic athletic vigor. This created a falling out between Johnson and Scott causing them to go their separate ways and breed the two significantly different versions of the American Bulldog.

## Today

American Bulldogs are now safe from extinction and are enjoying a healthy increase in popularity, either as a working dog or as a loving family pet. All over the world, they are used variously as "hog dogs" (catching escaped pigs or hunting razorbacks), as cattle drovers and as working K-9s. American Bulldogs also successfully compete in several dog sports such as schutzhund, french ring sport, street protection sport, Iron Dog(r) competition and weight pulling.

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(Rajah) An **american bulldog**

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ATTACHMENT IX  
A-45



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## See also

- Bulldog breeds
- French Bulldog
- Bulldog
- Alapaha Blue Blood Bulldog

## External links

- American Bulldog  
([http://www.dmoz.org/Recreation/Pets/Dogs/Breeds/Molossers\\_Group/American\\_Bulldog](http://www.dmoz.org/Recreation/Pets/Dogs/Breeds/Molossers_Group/American_Bulldog)) at the Open Directory Project - An active listing of American Bulldog links.

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Categories: Dog breeds | Dog fighting breeds | Bulldog breeds | Molossers | Dog breeds originating in the United States

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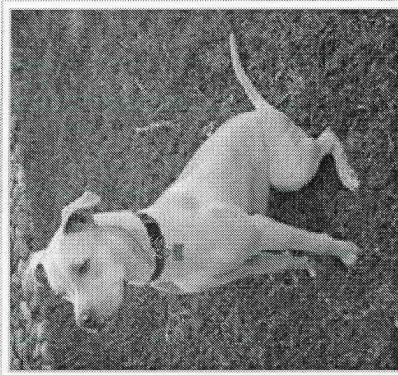


# Pit Bull

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(Redirected from Pit bull)

**Pit bull** is a term that describes several types of dogs with similar physical characteristics. There are several physically similar breeds that are mistakenly termed "pit bull", including the Indian Bull Terrier, Argentine Dogo, the American Bulldog, the Bull Terrier, the Perro de Presa Canario, Cane Corso, and the American Staffordshire Terrier. These breeds are usually not included by name in any Breed Specific Legislation (see below), but are sometimes included because of a broad definition and confusion as to what a pit bull actually is.<sup>[1]</sup> All of these breeds as well as many others (including Great Danes, Newfoundlands and Rottweilers) are members of the Molosser family of dog breeds.



The American Pit Bull Terrier is one of several bull terrier breeds, often kept as a pet.



This is a purebred APBT commonly

## Contents

- 1 History
- 2 Pit Bulls and Dog Bite Related Human Fatalities
- 3 Pit bulls as pets
  - 3.1 Banning of pit bulls
    - 3.1.1 Global
    - 3.1.2 United States
- 4 Legal issues in the USA
  - 4.1 Urban myths



- 4.2 Insurance problems
- 4.3 Breed Specific Legislation (BSL)
  - 4.3.1 Constitutional challenges to pit bull legislation in the United States
  - 4.3.2 Legislation and judicial opinions in opposition to pit bull specific legislation
- 4.4 Debate
- 5 Dog fights
- 6 Media coverage
- 7 Other facts
- 8 Famous pit bull owners
- 9 Working pit bulls in the news
- 10 Pit bulls in the arts
- 11 See also
- 12 References
- 13 Further reading
- 14 External links
  - 14.1 Government sites
  - 14.2 Documentaries

known as a "Blue Nose" because of its blue-grey coat.

## History

The ancestors of modern pit bulls come from the bulldogs and terriers of England. At one time every county in England had its own breed of terrier. Many of these still exist; however, some have evolved into new ones. Such is the case for the English White and the Black and Tan terriers, whose descendants include the bull-and-terriers, the Fox Terrier, and the Manchester Terrier. Terriers served an important purpose in England by killing vermin that might otherwise ruin crops, damage property, or spread disease



such as the Black Plague. The development of sports such as rat- or badger-baiting further added to the breeds' importance.



United States  
propaganda poster  
used during World  
War I depicting a Pit  
Bull

Mastiff type dogs also have a long history in England; they are thought to have been brought by the Celts. It is also known that the Normans introduced the Alaunt. These dogs were used in battle and for guarding, but they also served utilitarian purposes, such as farm work. Specifically, these dogs accompanied farmers into the fields to assist with bringing bulls in for breeding, castration, or slaughter. The dogs, known generally as bulldogs, protected the farmer by subduing the bull if it attempted to gore him. Typically a dog would do this by biting the bull on the nose and holding on until the bull submitted. Bulldogs were bred to have powerful, muscular bodies and the resolve to hold onto a violently struggling bull despite injury. These traits permitted the development and rise of the bloody sports of bull-baiting and bear-baiting. In Elizabethan England, these spectacles were popular forms of entertainment. However, in 1835, bull-baiting and bear-baiting were abolished by Parliament as cruel, and the custom died out over the following years.

The sport of dog fighting, which could be carried out under clandestine measures, blossomed. Since Bulldogs proved too ponderous and uninterested in dog fighting, the Bulldogs were crossed to English White and Black and Tan Terriers. They were also bred to be intelligent and level-headed during fights and remain non-aggressive toward their handlers. Part of the standard for organized dog-fighting required that the match referee who is unacquainted with the dog be able to enter the ring, pick up a dog while it was engaged in a fight, and get the respective owner to carry it out of the ring without being bitten. Dogs that bit the referee were culled.



As a result, Victorian fighting dogs (Staffordshire Bull Terriers and, though less commonly used as fighters, English Bull Terriers) generally had stable temperaments and were commonly kept in the home by the gambling men who owned them.

During the mid-1800s, immigration to the United States from Ireland and England brought an influx of these dogs to America, mainly to Boston, where they were bred to be larger and stockier, working as farm dogs in the West as much as fighting dogs in the cities. The resulting breed, also called the American Pit Bull Terrier, became known as an "all-American" dog. Pit bull type dogs became popular as family pets for citizens who were not involved in dog-fighting or farming. In the early 1900s they began to appear in films, one of the more famous examples being Pete the Pup from the *Our Gang* shorts (later known as *The Little Rascals*).

During World War I the breed's widespread popularity led to its being featured on pro-American propaganda posters.

## Pit Bulls and Dog Bite Related Human Fatalities

A study published in the Journal of the American Veterinary Medicine Association in September, 2000 reports that in the 20 years studied (1979 to 1998) "Pit-bull type dogs" and Rottweilers were involved in one half of dog bite related fatalities in the US<sup>[2]</sup>. Another study of American and Canadian dog bite related fatalities from September 1982 to November 2006 produced similar results, reporting that Pit bulls, Rottweilers, Presa Canarios and their mixes were responsible for 65% fatal dog attacks<sup>[3]</sup>. This study also noted: "Of the breeds most often involved in incidents of sufficient severity to be listed, pit bull terriers are noteworthy for attacking adults almost as frequently as children." and "They are also notorious for attacking seemingly without warning, a tendency exacerbated by the custom of docking pit bulls' tails so



that warning signals are not easily recognized."

## Pit bulls as pets

In many shelters across the United States, Pit bulls or dogs that appear to be pit bulls comprise a large portion of the shelter's population and may be destroyed due to the stigma associated with the breed (or because of overcrowding).<sup>[4]</sup>

Although friendliness and tolerance towards humans are traits of the breed, there are, as in any breed, those that are dangerous toward humans. It is the owner's responsibility to be in total control of his dog(s), and it is the owner who, through intentional mistreatment or neglect, is frequently responsible for pit bull bites. Many attacks by other dog breeds are misclassified as "pit bulls" by media reports.<sup>[5]</sup>

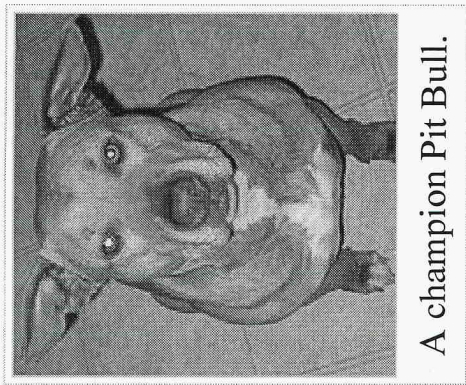
Regardless of who they are, any owner of a pit bull must train the dog well. Lack of proper socialization and strong training can result in a dog with aggressive tendencies. Under the care of an overly-permissive or uneducated owner, pit bulls (or any other large breed) can become very dangerous dogs.<sup>[6]</sup>

## Banning of pit bulls

This table shows places where Pit Bulls have been banned or where bans were proposed.

### Global

Place	Status	Type	Date	Details
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			<b>Banned</b>	
Ontario, Canada <sup>[7]</sup>	Active	Province	August 29, 2005	Pit bulls are not allowed to be imported into or brought through Ontario. Severe fines are in place for bringing new pit bulls into Ontario. Pit bulls owned prior to August 29, 2005 are grandfathered in. All grandfathered pit bulls of over 36 weeks of age are required to be sterilized immediately. Grandfathered pit bulls must be muzzled and leashed on a leash of less than 1.8 metres while in public. Sale of non-grandfathered pit bulls to residents of Ontario is illegal.
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada <sup>[8]</sup>	Active	City	1990	Pit Bulls are not allowed to be in Winnipeg and all Manitoba by law.
Australia	Active	Country	March 10, 2006	Legislation and implimentation dates varies across the different states, but here is the start of a list of the legislation in the various states: New South Wales <sup>[9]</sup> , Victoria <sup>[10]</sup> , Western Australia <sup>[11]</sup> , Queensland <sup>[12]</sup> , Australian Capital Territory, Northern Territory, South Australia, Tasmania.
France <sup>[13]</sup>	Active	Country	April 30, 1999	Ownership restricted; non-pure-breed animals resembling pit-bulls are to be surgically neutered
Norway	Active	Country	1991	
United Kingdom [14]	Active	Country	August 12, 1991	Banned under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991



New Zealand	Active	Country	Must be microchipped, muzzled in public, and cannot be publicly advertised for sale
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**United States**

Place	Status	Type	Date	Details
Delta, Utah <sup>[15]</sup>	Active	City		
Springville, Utah <sup>[16]</sup>	Active	City		
Miami-Dade County, Florida <sup>[17]</sup>	Active	County	1989	Section 5 Code 17: "It is illegal in Miami-Dade County to own any dog which substantially conforms to a pit bull breed dog, unless it was specially registered with Miami-Dade County prior to 1989. Acquisition or keeping of a pit bull dog: \$500.00 fine and County Court action to force the removal of the animal from Miami-Dade County."
Council Bluffs, Iowa <sup>[18]</sup>	Active	City	2004	
Royal City, Washington <sup>[19]</sup>	Active	City	January 12, 2007	
Denver, Colorado <sup>[20]</sup>	Active	City	9 May 2005	First banned in 1980s, but later revoked



Prince George's County, Maryland <sup>[21]</sup>	Active	City	1996	
Yonkers, NY	Active	City	November 3, 2006	
Springfield, Missouri <sup>[22]</sup>	Active	City	April 17, 2006	
Oklahoma <sup>[23]</sup>	Proposed	State	June 21, 2005	
Shelbyville, California <sup>[24]</sup>	Proposed	City	November 18, 2006	
New York City, NY <sup>[25]</sup>	Proposed	City	December 28, 2006	
Aurora, Colorado <sup>[26]</sup>	Proposed	City	September 27, 2005	
Youngstown, Ohio <sup>[27]</sup>	Proposed	City	January 10, 1999	
Richland, Washington <sup>[19]</sup>	Proposed	City	December 21, 2006	
Tupelo,	Proposed	City	September	



Mississippi <sup>[28]</sup>		28, 2006	
Parker, Colorado <sup>[29]</sup>	Proposed City	January 17, 2006	
Chicago, Illinois <sup>[30]</sup>	Proposed City	November 17, 2005	
Enumclaw, Washington	Active City		

## Legal issues in the USA

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) published a study concerning deaths from canine attacks in 2000. Although often cited, the CDC report cautioned that the accuracy of the data "requires complete ascertainment of deaths and an accurate determination of the breed involved, and the denominator requires reliable breed-specific population data (i.e., number of deaths involving a given breed divided by number of dogs of that breed).

However, such denominator data are not available, and official registration or licensing data cannot be used because owners of certain breeds may be less likely than those owning other breeds to register or license their animals."<sup>[31]</sup>

The issue is further clouded by up to at least half a dozen different breeds being classified as "pit bulls" and comparing these figures to individual breeds, making statistical comparisons irrelevant. Breed identifications were also obtained from media reports, a highly biased and dubious source on which to



base policy decisions. For all the reasons mentioned above CDC no longer quote breed identifications in dog-bite data.

These caveats notwithstanding, a CDC study detailing dog bite related fatalities in the US between 1979 and 1998 reveals that roughly one-third were caused by Pit Bull type dogs. The highest number of attacks (118) were by Pit Bull type dogs, the next highest being Rottweilers at 67. The full report can be accessed at: [10] (<http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/duip/dogbreeds.pdf>)

A followup to the study published in 2000 by Journal of American Veterinary Medical Association suggested that "generic non-breed-specific, dangerous dog laws can be enacted that place primary responsibility for a dog's behavior on the owner, regardless of the dog's breed. In particular, targeting chronically irresponsible dog owners may be effective."<sup>[32]</sup>

## Urban myths

There are many urban legends surrounding the pit bull, mostly based on the idea that the dogs are physiologically different from other breeds of dog. Many sources propagate the myth that pit bulls have a "locking jaw" mechanism, and that the dog cannot let go once it has bitten. This is untrue. According to Dr. I. Brisbin, a senior researcher at the University of Georgia:

“ The few studies which have been conducted of the structure of the skulls, mandibles and teeth of pit bulls show that, in proportion to their size, their jaw structure and thus its inferred functional morphology, is no different from that of any breed of dog.

There is absolutely no evidence for the existence of any kind of 'locking mechanism' unique to the structure of the jaw and/or teeth of the American Pit Bull Terrier. ”



Furthermore, the pit bulls that compete successfully in protection sports such as Schutzhund obviously do not display an inability to release their grips after biting, as releasing the decoy's sleeve on command is an integral part of scoring the competition. <sup>[33]</sup> Reports of pit bull type dogs refusing to release a bite grip is more likely a function of the breed's gameness—a willingness to engage in a task despite pain and discomfort.

A variant of the "locking jaw" story is told by Tom Skeldon, Lucas County (Ohio), dog warden, who said that an impounded pit bull that had been used in fighting started "going wild," biting at the walls of the kennel. <sup>[34]</sup> He shot the dog with a tranquilizer, and then left it for five minutes to let it pass out. When he came back the dog had indeed passed out, but not before it had leaped up and clamped its jaws on a cable used to open the door of the kennel. "Everything else was relaxed, the dog was out cold, but its jaws wouldn't let go of that cable, and he was hanging in midair," said Skeldon. "Not even a jaguar will do that." There is a video which shows live action where Skeldon is engaging a pit bull dog, and the judge who viewed the video believed that it showed animal abuse.

However, an incident reported by the Associated Press suggests that other breeds may also fail to relax their jaws when they become unconscious. An Albuquerque police officer was attacked, in October 2005, by a Belgian Malinois, a herding breed with no significant commonality with "pit bulls", other than that which makes them both dogs. The dog bit the officer on the arm. When the officer couldn't shake free, she shot the dog, killing it. Still, other officers had to come to her aid, and pry the dead dog's jaws off the officer's arm.

In addition to the "locking jaw" myth, it is widely believed that pit bulls don't feel pain. However, pit bulls have the same nervous system of any other breed, and they can and do feel pain. Historically, those dogs that would tolerate or ignore discomfort and pain and finish the task they were required to perform were



the dogs that were bred and the sort of dogs breeders strove to produce. This is the trait of "gameness" that so many breed fanciers speak of, which may be defined as, "The desire to continue on and/or complete a task despite pain and discomfort." Therefore, the difficulty in deterring a pit bull from its task is in fact not an inability to feel pain but rather a desirable trait in any trained working dog. Clearly shown in herding dogs which continue to herd despite a broken limb.

Another urban myth surrounding this breed states that pit bulls are the only type of dog that are not affected by capsaicin-based dog-repellent sprays. In fact, many other dog breeds also display this resistance to pepper spray when they are attacking. Documented cases include Bull Mastiffs, Rottweilers and many German Shepherds (including Police K9s).<sup>[35]</sup> In the words of two police officers, it is "not unusual for pepper spray not to work on dogs"<sup>[36]</sup> and "just as OC spray doesn't work on all humans, it won't work on all canines."<sup>[37]</sup>

It is also untrue that the pit bull is the only dog that will keep attacking after being sub-lethally shot.<sup>[38][39]</sup> Rottweilers, Mastiffs and German Shepherds have all exhibited this capacity.

Research performed by director, the late Marjorie Darby, finds that dogs involved in attacks overwhelmingly have a known history of aggression, even though many dog owners deny or minimize

this fact.<sup>[40]</sup> The neighbors are usually a better source for documenting negative aspects of a dog's history than the owner(s) are. As such, it is further evidence that dogs, including "pit bulls," don't just "turn" on their owners. A follow-up to a CDC report on dog bite fatalities came to a similar conclusion.<sup>[41]</sup>

Urban myths about pit bulls are well enough established to be spoofed, as in *The Onion's* mock caption "Heroic Pit Bull Journeys 2,000 Miles to Attack Owner" (Apr 17, 2002)<sup>[42]</sup> and "Department Of Homeland Security Deputizes Real Mean Dog," a Rottweiler-Pit Bull-Doberman mix introduced to the press corps announced by Tom Ridge (May 21 2003)<sup>[43]</sup>